

**Citizen's Guide to the District of Columbia  
Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant  
State Plan  
2010-2011**

April 2009

**Prepared by: The Early Care and Education Administration  
District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education**

# CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND BLOCK GRANT

*"All District residents receive an excellent education for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."*

## I. OVERVIEW

The goal of the Guide is to prepare community members for the upcoming 2010-2011 State Plan and Public Hearing. This Citizen's Guide highlights the major provisions, activities, and services that are contained in the approved District of Columbia's 2008-2009 CCDBG State Plan.

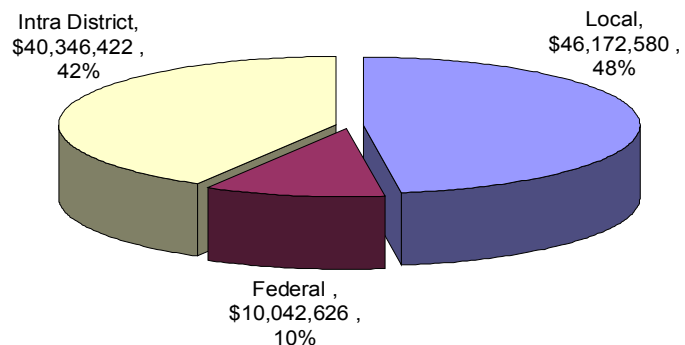
The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) serves as the lead agency responsible for administering the District of Columbia Child Care and Development Block Grant State Plan (CCDBG). OSSE's goal is to provide resources, support, and exercises accountability to ensure that all residents receive an excellent education for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

OSSE oversees education on all levels – beginning with our youngest constituents continuing through adulthood. OSSE provides leadership and oversight to ensure all District of Columbia children from birth to five have access to high quality early learning programs. OSSE works to develop an effective early childhood education system by implementing high standards for programs and professionals, creating supports to meet standards, adhering to rigorous accountability measures, engaging community stakeholders and securing strong financial supports.

One resource for accomplishing that responsibility is the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant (CCDBG). The District receives 9.9 million dollars in federal funds through this grant. This citizen's guide explains the city's plan for how those resources will be used to provide and support high-quality child care.

OSSE would like to invite DC residents to attend a public hearing to offer their thoughts on this plan. The hearing will be held on May 16, 2009 – additional details on how to attend and testify at that hearing are located on pages 5-6. Below you will find general information and facts on the program.

**Early Care and Education Budget FY 2009  
Total Budget**



The Federal budget includes the CCDBG and the Head Start State Collaboration Grant. The intra-District funding from the Department of Human Services includes Temporary Assistance to Needy Families; Social Services Block Grant; Food Stamp Employment Training fund. The local budget includes the Pre-Kindergarten funding. (Source: OSSE/Office of the Chief Financial Officer, March 20, 2009)

CCDBG is a federal grant that uses 9.9 million dollars in federal funds to increase the availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality of early care and education services for parents, caregivers and children. The majority of the Block Grant (a minimum of 70%) must be directly used for early care and

education services for children. A small portion of the CCDBG four percent (4%) is used for activities to improve quality of services and the remaining five percent (5%) is for administrative costs.

Services offered through this grant include:

- Child care subsidy;
- Out-of-school time programs;
- Professional development for early childhood professionals;
- Programs that develop literacy and math concepts;
- Activities to promote inclusive child care,
- Healthy activities including those designed to promote social and emotional development of children;
- Quality activities that increase parental choice, and improve the quality and availability of child care.

## **AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES**

Through partnerships and agreements with community-based organizations and government agencies; OSSE administers and implements all services, programs, and activities funded under the CCDBG grant in accordance with applicable DC laws and regulations, as well as the federal provisions outlined in this State plan.

OSSE contracts with the Washington Child Development Council (WCDC) to provide child care resource and referral information to parents about infant and toddler, preschool, out-of-school-time, and weekend and evening services available in the District of Columbia.

**Some of the highlights of quality care for 2008 include:**

**The number of children served:**

- 22,316 children served by the Child Care Subsidy Program (70.84% of the 31,500 eligible children).
- 368 children served by the Pre-Kindergarten Incentive Program.

**Accreditation of early care and education providers:**

- 95 centers were accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
- 10 homes were accredited by the Council of Accreditation (COA) or the National Association for Family Child Care.
- 18 centers and 15 homes were accredited or re-accredited through the Accreditation Facilitation Project.

**Professional development trainings:**

- Established the DC *PROS* Plan (Professional Receiving Opportunities and Support), an Early Care and Education (ECE) Professional Development Plan.
- Provided 244 Child Development Associates (CDA) Assessment scholarships.

- Trained 234 child care provider staff for CDA credential.
- Provided training opportunities to over 2,200 ECE professionals in various ECE topics including: child maltreatment (child abuse and neglect); First Aid/ CPR; Emergency Preparedness; and various ECE topics.

### Regulation and Oversight ranking:

- According to the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) report, “*We Can Do Better: 2009*”, the District of Columbia is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for State Child Care Center Regulation and Oversight. (D.C. scored higher than all 50 states and ranked only behind the Department of Defense.)

## ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICES

The OSSE offers families a wide range of child care options. The variety of schedules and types of programs enable families to choose the setting that best meets their needs. Child development centers and family child care homes are licensed by OSSE’s Compliance and Integrity Division. Providers must sign an agreement with OSSE’s School Preparedness Division to participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program. There are five types of places where children may receive child care.

	<b>Selection of child care done by</b>	<b>Eligibility determined by</b>	<b>Place of care</b>	<b>Provider of care</b>
<b>Level I Center-Based provider</b>	Parent/guardian	DHS	Center	Center staff
<b>Level II Center-Based provider</b>	Parent/guardian	Level II Center-Based provider	Center	Center staff
<b>Family Child Care Home Provider</b>	Parent/guardian	DHS	Home of provider	Provider
<b>Relative care provider</b>	Parent/guardian	DHS	Home of relative	Relative of child
<b>In-Home Care provider</b>	Parent/guardian	DHS	Home of child	Provider chosen by parent/guardian

1. **Level I Center-Based Provider** – accepts children who are referred for subsidized care after eligibility determination and intake at the Department of Human Services (DHS), Child Care Services Division.
2. **Level II Center-Based Provider** – conducts child care eligibility determination and intake on behalf of OSSE using OSSE eligibility requirements throughout the city.

3. **Family Child Care Home Provider** – accepts children who are referred for subsidized child care after eligibility determination and intake at the DHS.
4. **Relative Care Provider** – Parent or guardian selects the relative to provide care in the relative’s home. Eligibility determination and intake must be performed by DHS.
5. **In-home Care Provider** – Parent or guardian selects the provider to care for the child at their own home. Eligibility determination and intake must be performed by DHS.

*Note:* Relative care and in-home care providers are exempt from the licensing requirements and these are “*care-of-last-resort*” according to the Day Care Policy Act of 1979, as amended. In order to utilize relative or in-home care providers, parents must demonstrate that they could not find care in licensed centers or homes to meet their schedule needs or the needs of their child. Relative care and in-home care providers must enter into agreement with OSSE’s School Preparedness Division to participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program after the family has been determined eligible to receive subsidized child care service by DHS. The agreement has specific health, safety and education requirements for which these providers must follow.

**Non-traditional services:** In addition to the traditional services offered from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday, the OSSE assists eligible parents/guardians in paying for “non-traditional services,” which are available **evenings, nights, and weekends** at selected sites. Families/guardians can contact the **WCDC by calling 202-387-0002** for a listing of providers and services available in their neighborhoods.

**Accessibility to Children:** Parents/guardians who place their children in any type of early care and education program in the District of Columbia have the right to **unlimited access to their children** while in care. A statement to this effect should appear in each Parent Handbook provided to prospective parents by early care and education programs in the District.

## **AFFORDABILITY OF SERVICES**

In order for a child development center or family child care home program to operate legally in the District of Columbia it must obtain a license. Parents should always ask to see a program’s license when selecting a child care program. The cost for child care varies throughout the city, the range of which is represented in the Market Rate Study conducted by the University of the District of Columbia’s Center for Applied Research and Urban Progress. Families who receive child care subsidies usually pay monthly co-payments which are substantially lower than the full market rate. These co-payments are established under a sliding fee schedule (to see the parent co-pay schedule please visit OSSE website at [www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov) in the Early Care and Education Administration section). These co-payment fees are based on family size, income and the number of children receiving care.

Child care fees for families are reviewed regularly to ensure that services are affordable and consume only a small percentage of family income. The chart below shows a sample fee for a family earning \$18,000 per year.

CHILD ONE: School Age	CHILD TWO: Preschool
Part time care for (42 weeks out of the year): a parent fee of \$ .64 daily x 5 days equals \$3.20 weekly x 42 weeks: <b><u>\$134.40 per year</u></b>	Full time care for (52 weeks per year): \$ .95 daily x 5 days equals \$4.75 weekly x 52 weeks: <b><u>\$247.00 per year.</u></b>
Full time care for (10 weeks out of the year); \$1.27 daily x 5 days equals \$6.35 weekly x 10 weeks: <b><u>\$63.50 per year.</u></b>	<b>TOTAL for preschool : \$247 per year</b>
<b>TOTAL for school age child: \$197.90 per year.</b>	
<b>FAMILY TOTAL COST (BOTH CHILDREN): \$444.90 per year</b>	
<b>Percentage of Family's Annual Income: 3%</b>	

In addition to the Department of Human Services, Child Care Services Division, eligible families can apply for subsidized child care at more than 45 community-based child care centers (Level II center-based providers) located throughout the District. A list of these centers is available from **WCDC**, the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency by calling **(202) 387-0002**.

The current District of Columbia State CCDBG Plan is available on the OSSE website, ([www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov)). This state plan details the full range of child care and development services that are offered throughout the District in both licensed and license-exempt settings. It also provides a description of the family fees for child care and development services using a sliding scale, based on family income and size. The State Plan specifies that services are available for children from six weeks of age through age twelve (12). Children with disabilities are eligible for care up to age nineteen (19).

## II. HOW WAS THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 – 2009 STATE PLAN DEVELOPED?

- ECEA developed the FY2008-09 CCDBG State Plan under the auspices of the D.C. Department of Human Services. In developing the FY 2008 – 2009 State Plan, a variety of partners worked together throughout the community in 2007 and held two public hearings to get input from parents, guardians, citizens, advocates and stakeholders. In one model partnership, collaboration with the National Economic Development and Law Center (Insight, Inc.), the CityBridge Foundation, University of the District of Columbia (UDC) Center for Applied Research and Urban Policy and the UDC Early Care and Education Research Consortium worked to examine the impact of early care and education services on the economy of the District of Columbia. This partnership produced the publication “*Ensuring a Vibrant City: the Economic Impact of the Early Care and Education Industry in the District of Columbia*”.

### III. HOW CAN THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPING THE 2010-2011 STATE PLAN?

The OSSE is actively seeking ideas, concerns and recommendations from a wide variety of citizens throughout the District of Columbia. We would like to receive input from parents, grandparents, and citizens who are concerned about the future of the city. Stakeholder groups and experts are invited to participate in drafting the upcoming CCDBG State Plan for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

The Community Input Questionnaire has been distributed to gather community involvement on how to improve early care and education services in the areas of availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality. A copy of the survey is available on the OSSE website at [www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov) in the Early Care and Education Administration section. You can also provide input by attending the public hearing on:

**Saturday, May 16, 2009**  
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM  
Martin Luther King Jr. Library  
Room A5  
901 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Copies of the draft CCDBG State Plan are available for review in all DC public libraries and at the OSSE's Early Care and Education Administration, 717 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC. The plan will also be accessible online starting May 4th at: [www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov).

All interested parties are encouraged to give testimony at the public hearing. To register to make a presentation at the public hearing or for questions, call 202-727-5025 **no later than Wednesday, May 13, 2009**. Registered persons will be scheduled for a **3-minute period** to testify first. Persons not registered to testify will be allowed to testify as time permits. Persons who testify are encouraged to bring a copy of the written testimony for the record.

Amharic, Chinese, French, Spanish, Vietnamese and Sign Language interpreters will be available if the services are requested by **Monday, May 4, 2009**, to ensure availability. To request these services please contact Diane Paige at (202) 727-5025, fax (202) 724-7229 or e-mail [diane.paige@dc.gov](mailto:diane.paige@dc.gov).

Written comments on the draft CCDBG Plan may be submitted at the hearing or throughout the comment period. The written comments must be received by 4:00 PM on **Monday, June 1, 2009** at the OSSE. **Please** address comments to: the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant Plan attention Diane V. Paige at 717 14th Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20005, fax 202/724-7229 or e-mail [diane.paige@dc.gov](mailto:diane.paige@dc.gov)

**For A Complete Copy of the 2008-2009 CCDBG State Plan**, please visit the OSSE website: [www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov) or call Diane Paige at 202-727-5025.

## IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about the OSSE and its services please call (202) 727-1839, or any of the following numbers below:

### **Name and Phone Number of OSSE Contacts/Divisions**

Assistant Superintendent of Early Childhood Education	202-727-1839
Analysis and Reporting Division	202-727-1839
School Preparedness Division (Program Quality; Professional Development; Pre-kindergarten; Head Start State Collaboration)	202-727-1839
Compliance and Integrity Division(Licensing; Eligibility Monitoring; Complaints and Unusual Incidents)	202-727-1839
Office of Special Education, Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Division: Part C services	202-727-5784

### **Name and Phone Numbers of Partners**

The Department of Human Services, Child Care Services Division: Subsidized child care eligibility determination and intake	202-727-0284
The District of Columbia Public Library: <i>Reach Out and Read!</i>	202-727-4803

### **Additional Information**

Child Find Phone Line	202-727-3665
24-hour Training Calendar Line	202-310-2020
Washington Child Development Center Child Care Resource and Referral	202-387-0002
Mayor's Call Center	311



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**Additional copies of this Citizen's Guide can be obtained from:**

**Office of the State Superintendent of Education**

**Early Childhood Education Division**

**717 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20005**

**(202) 727-1839**

**[www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov)**

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